

First Look

FSC closed

The family support center will be closed Monday for an official function.

R&B show

In celebration of Black History Month, "Project Necessary," a rhythm and blues, funk/jazz group will play at 7 p.m. Mon. in the community center ballroom. Admission is free.

Making rank

Congratulations are in order for two members of Team Lajes who were selected for promotion: **Lt. Col. Dave Reynolds**, 65th Mission Support Group, was selected for promotion to colonel and **Maj. Jimmy Bardin**, 65th Air Base Wing, was selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel.

Vet Visit

There will be veterinarians available Monday-March 4 and March 7-11. For more information or to make an appointment, call the vet clinic at 2-3134.

Space-A info

For information about space-available flights and seat availability, call the 729th Air Mobility Squadron passenger terminal at 2-3227 or visit their website at <https://info.lajes.af.mil/ams/index.htm>

Preflight

■ **Days since last DUI...** 30
 ■ **DUIs since Jan. 1.....** 1
 ■ **Current AEF** 3 & 4
 ■ **Current FPCON.....** Alpha
 ■ **Combat Nighthawk:**
Capt. Adam Huhn, 65th Medical Operations Squadron;
Master Sgt. Pamela Jacobs, 65th Communications Squadron



Col. Michael Silver, 65th Mission Support Group commander, congratulates Senior Airman Elsie Lengyon, 65th Mission Support Squadron, after she won the USAFE Idol contest Feb. 19 at the Top of the Rock Club. (Photo by Annick Sorensen)

No contest, Idol a hit

**By Staff Sgt. Olenda Kleffner
Crossroads Editor**

More than 350 people packed into the Top of the Rock Club Ballroom Saturday to watch 10 Team Lajes members sing their hearts out during the USAFE Idol Talent Contest.

The contest was broken down in three categories — the USAFE winner, the Lajes winner and the overall winner.

The active duty members competed for the one slot that would take them to the USAFE Idol Talent Contest at Ramstein Air Base, Germany April 23.

The USAFE and overall winner was Senior Airman Elsie Lengyon, 65th Mission Support Squadron, singing "Nobody's Supposed to be Here." Airman Lengyon won a television for winning the overall category. The Lajes winner was Pascha Avery, wife of Staff Sgt. Jonathan Avery, singing "If I Could."

The other contestants were: Capt. Yvonne Levardi, 65th Air Base Wing, "Black Velvet;" 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley, 65th ABW, "The Way You Look Tonight;" Master Sgt. Roger Alves, 65th ABW "Mack the Knife;" Airman 1st Class Bethany Schwartzkopf, 65th Contracting Squadron, "Someone to Watch Over Me;" Lisa Gann, wife of 2nd Lt. Terry Gann, "Don't Be Stupid;" Trinidad Gonzalez-Lopez, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, "Boogie Oogie Oogie;" Tech. Sgt. Silvia DeJesus, 65th Communications Squadron, "The Rose;" and Jennifer Salcido, wife of Staff Sgt. Luis Salcido, "Angel of Mine."

Each contestant chose three songs, and the USAFE's Touch n' Go band picked two of those to play for the active duty contestants.

Since Lajes was the first of seven wing-level contests that will judge solo vocal performances, Sheryl Bush, Community Activity Center director, said it went pretty smooth overall.

"The best part was the final product — the show," she said. "Every single detail of this event came together in perfect symmetry. The entire program was seamlessly executed."

Mrs. Bush said the biggest challenge was putting it all together.

"We were notified Jan. 26 — with exactly three weeks to plan, organize, coordinate and execute this major event — and with a lot of help — we did it."

Besides the 10 contestants, there were also four judges, two timers, two masters of ceremony, a disc jockey, 11 stage hands, the services marketing staff, the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron electrical shop, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle management flight, 65th Communications Squadron, AFN Detachment 6, community center staff and the TORC staff.

"It took a team of outstanding people, paid staff and volunteers, working together to create and execute this successful event," Mrs. Bush said. "It was a great show — thanks to all who helped."

All wing-level winners who proceed to the USAFE level will receive three days of performing arts workshops and rehearsals hosted by the USAFE Band. The winner of the April 23 competition may have the opportunity to perform with the USAFE band and at military functions.

CHEER events boost Airmen spirits

By Mandy Smith-Nethercott
USAFE Services

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — More than 46,000 Airmen throughout the command participated in at least one of 455 high-energy Project CHEER events in November and December 2004.

Project CHEER, which stands for Creating Hope, Energy, Enthusiasm and Recreation for single and unaccompanied Airmen, runs annually from November through March to provide additional support to Airmen ages 18-25 during the winter months and holidays.

"Most everyone has experienced some degree of sadness and loneliness when separated from family and loved ones, and it can be especially hard around the winter holidays," said USAFE Services Director, Col. Frank Pombar. "That's why Project CHEER is so important."

At Lajes, Airmen have had over 125 events to choose from this season.

"My main goal was to ensure as many single and unaccompanied members as possible knew about all the events on base," said Capt. Sam Elmore, Lajes Project CHEER manager. "I just didn't want to hear, 'There's nothing to do!' It worked — it's pretty rewarding to hear people comment about how much fun certain events were. It makes me feel good to know people are actually hearing about and enjoying the events."

Project CHEER activities at Lajes have ranged from all-night movie marathons, to board game nights, to Xbox tournaments, to themed parties.

Two of Lajes' best-attended events were dodgeball and Lajes Idol, both drawing in over 200 attendees, the captain said.

"They were something different and nostalgic," Captain Elmore said. "Both were excellent spectator events for the Airmen who didn't want to participate."

"Each base conducts a tremendous number and variety of activities for our single and unaccompanied Airmen. We strive to appeal

to every interest. The goal is to give folks the opportunity to have some fun, and perhaps make friends with others who are feeling the distance from the people who are special to them," Colonel Pombar said.

Command Project CHEER programs are also offered to supplement those conducted by each USAFE base.

"Headquarters Services is proud to support the program by offering several command programs like Fitness Clue, Xbox challenges, the 8-Ball Pool Shark Shootout Tournament, Cosmic Bowling and Fitness Survivor," the colonel said.

Captain Elmore said the biggest challenge for Project CHEER at Lajes was getting people excited about and involved in events.

"It can be tough to get folks involved when there are already so many different things going on," she said. "Lajes is not at a loss for things to do — there are so many choices of events and activities here."

(Crossroads staff members contributed to this story.)

Medal, award highlight Lajes Heroes

By Capt. Yvonne Levardi
Chief of Public Affairs

A Defense Department medal and an Air Force-level award recognizing outstanding volunteer support are available to Lajes military and civilian volunteers.

The DoD created the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, or MOVSM, Dec. 31, 1992 to recognize "exceptional community support over time" by a member of the U.S. armed forces and their reserve components, according to Air Force instructions.

The Volunteer Excellence Award is an award from the Air Force Chief of Staff to recognize the contributions of non-active duty military volunteers, Else Wingert, Lajes Hidden Hero manager, said.

"The VEA includes family members — spouses and youth, civilian employees and local nationals who volunteer their time in the Lajes community," said Ms. Wingert. "The medal is for our military volunteers."

Lajes is able to give four volunteer awards at the annual volunteer recognition ceremony,

Ms. Wingert said.

There is no limit to the number of medals the Air Force may award. The nomination for the medal can be made at anytime through proper channels, officials said.

Both focus on volunteer activities that significantly impact the community and provide positive results, Ms. Wingert said.

"It's important to remember that the activity isn't as important as what resulted and how the community benefited," Ms. Wingert said. "A volunteer

who works at a variety of organizations such as the Enlisted Spouses Club, the post office and family services is just as eligible as a volunteer who dedicates all his or her time to one location."

Staff Sgt. Marty Rush was a recipient of the medal; he received his just before he came to Lajes in 2004.

"For a year, I volunteered with the Red Cross doing media train-

ing," Sergeant Rush said. "I gave three workshops, teaching Red Cross public affairs staff how to deal with local media during crisis situations."

Sergeant Rush also was "Mr. Vice" for

the last dining-in held at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas and was part of the Kelly closing ceremonies, giving more than 200 hours in organizing the banquet and entertainment.

"It was really nice for my command to recognize the time and effort I put into the community and volunteering," Sergeant Rush said. "You volunteer for things you believe to be important — not for the recognition — but it was great that they took the time to write the package and put me in."

Currently, Sergeant Rush is helping the Lajes High School video class produce a program called "School Doors" that airs

locally on AFN.

"It's a great thing to see the excitement on their faces and watch them learn," he said.

Ms. Wingert said it's important to recognize volunteer work.

"Our community greatly depends on the valuable time of volunteers," she said. "Whether it's at the post office or being a bus monitor, all Lajes volunteers deserve an opportunity to be appreciated and thanked by the community and senior leadership."

The deadline for Volunteer Excellence Award nominations is March 4 in order for them to be presented at the recognition ceremony April 20.

In order for the medals to be presented in time for the annual ceremony, Ms. Wingert asked that medal nominations be finished by the same deadline, to allow time for the packages to go through all the selection channels.

For more information on nominating a volunteer for the award, call Ms. Else Wingert at 2-4138 or e-mail her at else.wingert@lajes.af.mil. For more information about the medal, call awards and decorations at 2-1343.



Saluting Lajes' best

Crossroads staff

The Lajes Field Annual Awards Banquet is at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Top of the Rock Club. At this banquet Team Lajes' "Best of the Best" for 2004 will be announced. Below are the categories and nominees.

Airman

Senior Airman Aristotle Munoz, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Airman 1st Class Daniel York, Jr., 65th Security Forces Squadron
Airman 1st Class DeLora Oliver, 65th Communications Squadron
Senior Airman Denielle Spain, 65th Mission Support Squadron
Senior Airman Urayoan Rodriguez, 65th Operations Support Squadron
Senior Airman Cheick Bah, 65th Medical Support Squadron
Airman 1st Class Bethany Schwartzkopf, 65th Contracting Squadron
Senior Airman Chadrick Minnifield, 65th Air Base Wing
Senior Airman Johanna Kelly, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron
Airman 1st Class Sharika Ceasor, 729th Air Mobility Squadron

Noncommissioned officer

Tech. Sgt. James Trammell, 65th LRS
Tech. Sgt. William Comp, 65th SFS
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Allen, 65th CS
Staff Sgt. Shawn Brown, 65th MSS
Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Sutton, 65th OSS
Staff Sgt. Eric Lewis, 65th CES
Staff Sgt. Sarah Edwards, 65th MDOS
Master Sgt. Robin Brooks, 65th MDSS
Tech. Sgt. Kathryn Harshberger, 65th CONS
Staff Sgt. Stacy Garner, 65th SVS
Staff Sgt. Dawn Schenck, 65th ABW
Staff Sgt. James Holzer, 729th AMS

Senior noncommissioned officer

Senior Master Sgt. Scott Urfer, 65th LRS
Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis, 65th SFS
Master Sgt. Roger Warner, 65th CS
Senior Master Sgt. Oakley Coleman, 65th MSS
Senior Master Sgt. Robin McMullen, 65th OSS
Master Sgt. Derrick Alves, 65th MDOS
Master Sgt. Tundra Gatewood, 65th MDSS
Master Sgt. Tracy Burke, 65th CONS
Master Sgt. Darcy Eubanks, 65th SVS
Master Sgt. Onofre Martin, Jr., 65th ABW
Senior Master Sgt. Todd Katz, 65th CES
Senior Master Sgt. James McDonald, 729th AMS

First sergeant

Master Sgt. Norman Evans, 65th LRS

Master Sgt. Darren Jorgenson, 65th CS

Master Sgt. Christopher Moore, 65th CES
Senior Master Sgt. Clyde Hickerson, 65th MDG

Company grade officer

Capt. Marc Hasberger, 65th LRS
1st Lt. Lee Hoisington, 65th SFS
Capt. Michael Miley, 65th CS
Capt. Joel Bolina, 65th CES
Capt. Tammy Pokorney, 65th MDSS
Capt. Christopher Boyd, 65th ABW
Capt. Michael Hartzell, 65th MSG
Capt. Robbie Wheeler, 65th MDOS
2nd Lt. Scott Kniola, 65th SVS

Civilian category I U.S.

Ann Moody, 65th LRS
Jodi Hopkins, 65th MSS
Terry Agnew, 65th CES
Jocelyn Warner, 65th CONS
Lori Urfer, 65th SVS
Shara Sever, 65th ABW
Trinidad Gonzalez-Lopez, 65th MDOS

Portuguese

Fatima Drumonde, 65th LRS
Paula Cristina Sousa, 65th SFS
Silvia Nunes, 65th CS
Maria Madalena Lima, 65th MDSS
Elma Mendonca, 65th CONS
Antonio Avila, 65th CES
Luis Oliveria, 729th AMS
Theresa Cordle, 65th SVS

Civilian category II U.S.

Else Wingert, 65th MSS
John Rick Henry, 65th CES
Carol Wood, 65th SVS
Angela Ruter, 729th AMS

Portuguese

Frank Homem, 65th LRS
Maria Ascensao Dos Santos, 65th SFS
Avelino Ormonde, 65th CS
Adriana Azevedo, 65th MSS
Joao Alves, 65th OSS
Jose Meneses, 65th CES
Francisco Toste, 65th MDSS
Maria Meneses, 65th CONS
Goretti Alves, 65th ABW
Rui Nemesio Vasconcelos, 729th AMS
Vitor Jose Leal Da Silva, 65th SVS
Delia Tristao-Martinez, 65th MDOS

Honor Guard

Airman 1st Class DeLora Oliver, 65th CS
Airman 1st Class George Oaks, 65th CS
Staff Sgt. Anita Sommers, 65th MSS

Noncommissioned officer

Staff Sgt. Michael Farmer, 65th CS
Staff Sgt. Eric Helms, 65th CS

LOOK SHARP!

Wearing mess dress

It's mandatory for officers to wear a mess dress uniform. Enlisted can wear service dress with white-sleeved shirt or mess dress. Rank and badge requirements are below.

Male mess dress

Aeronautical and chaplain badges are mandatory, and should be centered one-half inch above top row of medals or when medals are not authorized, midway between shoulder and top button. Other duty or miscellaneous badges are optional and should be centered one-half inch below bottom row of medals or in comparable position when no medals are authorized. Wear either highly polished or satin finished badges, cuff links or studs, but don't mix highly polished or satin finish.

Miniature medals, which are mandatory, should be centered between lapel and arm seam, midway between top shoulder seam and top button of jacket.

Officers' shoulder board insignia should be placed as close as possible to shoulder seam. Airmen should center 4-inch sleeve chevrons (either aluminum color on blue background or new style rank insignia) halfway between shoulder seam and elbow bent at 90-degree angle.

Shirts should be white, long-sleeved. Conventional soft-dress type with turn-down collar and French cuff, with pleated or plain front.

Female mess dress

Aeronautical and chaplain badges are mandatory, and should be centered one-half inch above top row of medals or when medals are not authorized, midway between shoulder and top button. Wear second badge above first badge when authorized. Center duty or miscellaneous badge on top right side in same relative position as those badges worn on left.

Wear satin finish or highly polished badges, but don't mix highly polished or satin finish.

Center miniature medals between lapel and arm seam and midway between top of shoulder seam and top button of jacket.

Officers should place shoulder board insignia as close as possible to shoulder seam. Airmen should center 3-, 3 1/2-, or 4-inch sleeve chevron (either aluminum color on blue background or new style rank insignia) halfway between shoulder seam and elbow bent at 90-degree angle.

Shirts should be white with quarter-length sleeves, three vertical pleated ruffles on each side slightly overlapped on shirt front with front bottom closure.

NASA hones Team Lajes skill

Four-day training fine tunes joint capability, shuttle rescue ops



Rogério Aguiar, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, assists "patient" Staff Sgt. Jose Loureiro, 65th Medical Support Squadron.



Staff Sgt. Ryan Massey, 65th CES crew chief, talks with other members of the rescue crew via radio during the space shuttle exercise Feb. 17. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud)

By Capt. Yvonne Levardi Chief, public affairs

More than 200 Portuguese and U.S. Air Force emergency, medical, security and operational support personnel participated in joint NASA space shuttle recovery operations training Feb. 14-17 at Lajes Field.

"The NASA team trained us in class, then we went out and actually exercised what we had learned," said Col. Danny Leonard, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander. "The fact that the Portuguese participated as fully as they did - that's what really made a successful exercise for combined Team Lajes."

The annual training consisted of

three classes which covered shuttle familiarization; fire, crash and rescue procedures familiarization; and specialized medical requirements, a table-top exercise and a flight line shuttle training exercise with emergency responders and a simulated space shuttle.

"This training is always a great opportunity for both Air Base No. 4 and the 65th Air Base Wing," said Maj. Al Coker, 65th Operations Support Squadron director of operations. "Our people are able to train together as a team, while being taught by the NASA experts."

Lajes Field is an emergency landing site and an alternate launch abort site for the space shuttle.

Tickets available for USAFE Banquet

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) — Tickets for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Annual Awards Banquet are available for purchase March 1.

The USAFE Annual Awards Banquet will be 6:30 p.m. April 8 at the Ramstein Air Base Officers' Club. Price of the tickets for the meat option is \$24 for club members and \$27 for non-members. Ticket prices for the vegetarian option are \$16.55 for club members and \$19.55 for non-members.

The USAFE Annual Awards Banquet honors the command's outstanding Airmen and civilians competing in the categories of Airmen, Noncommissioned

Officer, Senior NCO, Company Grade Officer, First Sergeant of the Year and Civilian - Categories I and II. USAFE leaders will announce the winners from each category during the event.

The deadline for ticket purchase is March 30 and can be purchased from wing command chief master sergeants or organization first sergeants. Guest speaker for the evening will be former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Ralston. Both civilians and military members of all ranks are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact your wing command chief master sergeant or first sergeant.

Five receive 15s

By Tech. Sgt. Jill
Hudkins
65th Air Base Wing
Legal Office

Five Article 15s were given to Airmen at Lajes for the period of Dec. 1, 2004-Jan. 31, 2005.

An Airman 1st Class received an Article 15 for disorderly conduct, assault and dereliction of duty. Punishment was a suspended reduction to Airman, 45 days extra duties and 30 days restriction to base.

An Airman 1st Class received an Article 15 for viewing pornography and sending sexually explicit e-mail from a government computer.

Punishment was reduction to Airman and a reprimand.

An Airman 1st Class received an Article 15 for disorderly conduct and assault. Punishment was suspended forfeiture of \$250 pay per month for two months, 10 days extra duties and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman received an Article 15 for using marijuana. Punishment was reduction to Airman Basic, 45 days extra duties and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman received an Article 15 for assault and battery. Punishment was a suspended forfeiture of \$893 pay, 30 days extra duties and a reprimand.

President Bush visits with German officials, U.S. military members

Amidst frigid temperatures and blowing snow, President George W. Bush, met by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, arrived here Feb. 23 as part of his European tour.

Accompanied by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and White House chief of staff Andrew Card, President Bush stepped off Air Force One and waved to a crowd of approximately 100 civilians and military members, including Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, 435th Air Base Wing commander, who was the official greeter for Chancellor Schroeder upon his arrival earlier in the morning.

After greeting other high-level officials, President Bush stepped into his motorcade and drove to Mainz, Germany, where Chancellor Schroeder hosted talks about the future of NATO and rebuilding efforts in Iraq.

After the visit, President Bush met with nearly 3,000 U.S. military members and spouses from the Air Force and the Army's 1st Armored Division at Wiesbaden, Germany, many of whom were in Iraq when he made a surprise visit there during Thanksgiving.

"We are honored that the President and Mrs. Bush have chosen Wiesbaden to visit with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and family members of the United States European Command," said Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, commanding general of the 1st Armored Division.

The president's whirlwind tour began with back-to-back meetings with NATO and European Union leaders in Brussels, Belgium, where he affirmed that "in this new century, the United States and Europe reaffirm that commitment (of democracy, freedom and rule of law) and renew our great alliance of freedom." (USAFENS)

General Jumper: Air Force will uphold standards

The Air Force will uphold its standards, and people who break the service's core values "will pay the price," the Air Force chief of staff said.

Gen. John P. Jumper also told the more than 1,000 attendees at the Air Force Association's annual Air Warfare Symposium here Feb. 17 the service will not hide from media scrutiny.

"We will maintain the standards of our U.S. Air Force. Those standards are high," he said. "And we're not going to back away from the glare of reporting that puts things in another light."

The general's impassioned remarks came during his more than 35-minute speech to the association where he outlined the Air Force's course for the future.

The Air Force will tackle its problems "head on," General Jumper said. "That's not going to change." He said the thousands of Airmen at home and deployed worldwide, facing hardships and risking their lives, deserve no less.



Members of the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department participated in a one-minute "final alarm" ceremony Feb. 16 honoring Staff Sgt. Ray Rangel, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, who died while attempting to rescue two Soldiers after their Humvee overturned in a canal in Iraq. Officials estimate that more than 3,900 active-duty firefighters, countless civilian firefighters and thousands of other servicemembers at Air Force installations around the world participated in the ceremony. (Photo by Guido Melo)

"These Airmen live our core values, especially the one that says 'service before self,'" he said. The Air Force, he said, will ask those who do not live the core values to leave the service.

General Jumper said Airmen also must consider other important issues that are now part of the everyday reality of being in an Air Force where every Airman is part of a deployable, expeditionary force.

For example, the general said there are Airmen who are content to stay in one place, who are not willing to move. When asked to relocate for the good of the Air Force, they resist. He said that attitude is not part of the service's core values.

"We're asking people to be fit," he said. "The fitness program is taking root throughout the Air Force, and things are getting tougher, not easier."

The general said the Air Force will soon start to include fitness evaluations in performance reports, and the service will hold squadron commanders accountable for the fitness of their unit. The Air Force is developing the tools to ensure that happens.

"And the payoff will be huge" because the Air Force will be a fitter, more capable force, he said.

General Jumper said the Air Force will continue developing Airmen who demonstrate the service's core values, day in and day out. But, along the way, he said, "Sometimes we have deviations."

"In the press, you will find people who are talking about the Air Force Academy or this problem or that problem within our Air Force," he said.

Why such issues are in the press is apparent, the general said.

"The reason they are writing about it is because we are visibly out there attacking (the problem) — not hiding it," he said. (AFP)

No smoking in USAF SVS

Putting the health of U.S. Air Forces in Europe members first, USAF Services is instituting a new policy Feb. 23 prohibiting smoking in all recreational areas within the command.

The new no-smoking policy includes services amusement and entertainment areas, said David Quinn, USAF Services Programs chief.

"In USAF we are continually advocating for a healthy and fit community," said Mr. Quinn. "No smoking has been the norm for the vast majority of services facilities and programs on our bases for years, and only a few installations retained very limited indoor smoking areas for entertainment game room areas."

Troop health and morale are two important key factors influencing the implementation of this policy said, Lt. Col. Carol Fisher, USAF Public Health officer and Health Promotions director.

"Closed smoking areas, such as game rooms, are a significant source of secondhand smoke which is a known human carcinogen," said Colonel Fisher. "This new policy will afford everyone the opportunity to enjoy all recreational areas without worrying about exposure to harmful secondhand smoke."

Enjoying the benefits of all USAF Services has to offer in a healthy environment is what this policy is all about, said Mr. Quinn.

"Our customers come first, and throughout USAF there are a lot of new high-energy entertainment areas featuring state-of-the-art amusement machines and name and signature-brand restaurants," he said. "We hope that our customers who do smoke find these features attractive and continue to let us serve them and enjoy this great benefit of military life." (USAFENS)



A few random thoughts...

Our Air Force's success comes from its people

**By Lt. Col. James MacFarlane
729th Air Mobility Squadron
commander**

With apologies to the recent Airman Leadership School graduates who worked so hard to learn the Air Force writing style, in this article I've decided to chuck the requisite three main points, slick transitions and concise opening and closing paragraphs, and instead chosen to just throw out a few observations I've made in and out of the Air Force.

Respect

There are three good reasons why you should always treat everyone in your work center with respect: First, it's just the right way to treat people - think of the Golden Rule and the core American value of equality.

Second, a lack of respect breeds angst, angst breeds distraction and distraction reduces productivity. In other words, mutual respect is vital to mission accomplishment.

Third, the ills of our society and Air Force - discrimination, sexual harassment, etc. - have at their core a lack of respect by one person or group toward another.

Attitude

While attending an ice-breaker reception for our group's annual award winners, I overheard our Airman of the Year, Airman 1st Class Sharika Ceasor, casually remark, "I'm going to learn how to sew and make my own clothes."

This remark struck me because of its simplicity and conviction; it wasn't boastful or some grand announcement, and she didn't say "I think I'm going to try..." or "I wish I knew how

to..." She simply decided upon a goal for herself and set herself on the path to achieving that goal. I'm thinking this type of attitude says a lot about how she became our Airman of the Year.

The way we treat each other, the attitudes we bring, and the choices we make every day will ultimately make a lasting impact.

**- Lt. Col. James MacFarlane
729th Air Mobility Squadron
commander**

Choices

One good thing about humans is that we have the mental capacity to make rational choices, and in America we have the freedom to make them as well. One bad thing about us humans is that we often let circumstances or others dictate our choices.

Consider the people you know who are eternal optimists. Are they that way because bad things never happen to them? No. They *choose* to put a positive spin on things.

We often can't control events or others, but we can control/choose our reactions to these external things.

One final thought: Optimists are

not inherently more talented, smart, or capable than pessimists, but think of how they impact the work center or organization. One elevates the team and the other drags it down.

Impact

Whether we realize it or not, we all have an impact on those around us. It doesn't matter if you're an airman or a colonel; things you do and say leave a lasting impression.

Here's a quick example: Back in the early 1930's a man insisted on dragging his friend to the local revivals.

The friend agreed to drive but didn't want to go in so he stayed in the car the first several times. Eventually he relented and went in. Very quickly he "saw the light" and eventually became a pastor himself.

The reluctant driver turned minister in this story is none other than the Rev Billy Graham, who of course has impacted tens of millions of people.

No one knows his friend, who convinced him to go into that revival, and in fact I've heard the story twice but I still can't remember his name.

Herein lies the point—the person's identity may be forgotten, but his impact will live forever. And so the question we must ask ourselves is not "Do I have impact?" but "What is my impact?"

Put together, these thoughts don't seem so random at all.

Though we have the most technologically advanced Air Force and military in the world, our success still comes primarily from our people.

The way we treat each other, the attitudes we bring, and the choices we make every day will ultimately make a lasting impact.



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Lajes Field Editorial Staff

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Socialists take power in Portugal following legislative elections

Question:

I've recently seen some billboards placed in public places off-base with what seems to be political propaganda. Is there an election going on and if so for what reason?

Answer:

The Portuguese people throughout the country went to the ballots this past Sunday to elect new parliament representatives and subsequently a new prime minister and government for the next four years.

This early legislative election had been called for by the President of the Republic Jorge Sampaio, after he dissolved the national parliament in December of last year due to the lack of confidence in Prime Minister Santana Lopes' coalition government.

Sampaio justified his position arguing the country was going through a period of economic and social instability and needed to recover as soon as possible.

The coalition government formed by the Social Democrat Party (PSD) and the right-wing People's Party (PP) was inaugurated in July of last year after the prime minister at the time, Jose Manuel Durão Barroso quit to become the European Commission's president.

Sunday's election was won by the Socialist Party (PS), who scored their biggest electoral victory ever, giving its leader and Prime Minister-elect José Socrates, the majority of seats in the national parliament.

The socialists won 120 of the 230 seats in parliament giving them an absolute majority compared with the 72 seats for the Social Democrat Party and 12 for the People's Party. The communist coalition (CDU) won 14 seats and the left-wing bloc coalition, (BE) received eight.

There are still four parliament representative seats waiting to be awarded which depend on the ongoing counting of immigrant ballots.

After socialist leader José Socrates, a former environment minister in a previous socialist government, is officially appointed

by the President of the Republic as Portugal's new Prime Minister, he will have about a week to form a new cabinet, which should be inaugurated sometime in mid-March.

History of the Portuguese Socialist Party

On 19 April 1973, a group of clandestine socialist militants of the Portuguese Socialist Action at the time gathered in the German city of Bad Munstereifel and approved the change from the Socialist Action to the Portuguese Socialist Party (PS).

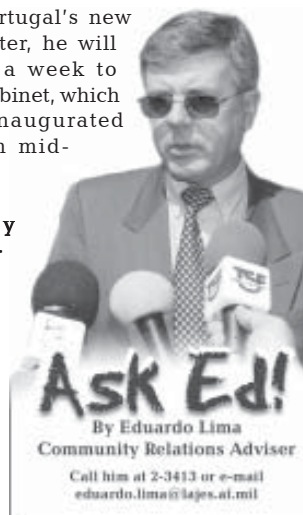
The Socialist Action had been founded in Geneva in 1964 by Mario Soares, Tito de Morais and Francisco Ramos da Costa.

When the Portuguese military held a military coup on 25 April 1974, it ended a right-wing fascist regime that had ruled for almost 47 years and restored democracy to the country.

In the aftermath of the coup, a group of socialists who lived in exile, returned to Portugal, legalized the Socialist Party and started participating actively in the country's political life.

Throughout the past 30 years, the socialists have been part of some provisional and constitutional governments, sometimes governing alone while at other times forming political coalitions with other parties.

The last time the socialists were in power happened between 1995 and 2002, during the 13th and 14th constitutional governments.



Everyday Hero Senior Airman Elsie Lengyon

65th Mission Support Squadron

Duty title: Outbound assignments counselor

Job description: Process assignment notifications and assignment availability codes, publish PCS orders/amendments, make sure members meet assignment requirements for Lajes and/or follow-on assignments and conduct in and out-processing briefings

Time in the Air Force: 4 years

Time at Lajes: 7 months

What's the best aspect of your job: Taking care of Air Force members and seeing them happy.

What are your career goals: To excel in my military career, however far that may be, and enjoy my travels with the military.

Best Air Force experience: Being at Kunsan- everything about that tour was great!

Life goal: To retire and open a daycare.

Hometown: Dallas, Texas

One word to describe you: Exhilarating

Hobbies: Reading books, listening to music, watching movies or just hanging out

Favorite food: Soul Food, Braums, Sonic, McDonald's, Jack-in-the-Box, Wendy's and Blue Bell Ice Cream

Favorite color: Blue

Pet peeve: To be cut off and not listened to.

When I was growing up, I wanted to be: An elementary school teacher

If I could have only one kind of food, it would be: My grandmother's spaghetti and meat balls.

The first thing I would do if I won \$1,000,000 is: Pay bills, get a house and a Chrysler 300.

Main gate ideas needed

Maj. Gen. Antonio Mimoso, Commander Headquarters Azores Air Zone, is asking members of Team Lajes for their ideas in designing a main gate monument.

The theme should incorporate the combined Portuguese, British and

American cooperation and presences at Lajes.

The monument will be built on the traffic circle just outside the main gate.

The general said that the design of the monument should be such that it does not impair visibility of the road from the guard shack towards Praia.

Submit ideas to Maj. Brian Fillmore at brian.fillmore@lajes.af.mil.



Tech. Sgt. Rachel Polite, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, teaches Senior Airman Sydney Kneubuhl how to properly pack a deployment bag at the 65th LRS compound. In the compound they build, maintain and store deployment bags in case of a mass deployment.

Melting Pot

From fixing vehicles to preparing Team Lajes for deployments -LRS does it all



(Above) Senior Airman Nathan Richards, 65th LRS fuels journeyman, and Senior Airman Jon Koller, 65th LRS fuels storage technician inspect a hose on a fuel truck. As a part of the Preventive Maintenance team, they are responsible for maintaining the flight line fueling trucks.

(Right) Jose Leal, 65th LRS packing and crating, cuts through a board to make a container for an outgoing item. This shop is responsible for building crates to carry shipments that were brought without a container.





(Above) Senior Airman Rudy King, 65th LRS fuels journeyman, and Senior Airman D'Shante Lucas, 65th LRS fuels hydrant technician, check the fuel level of one of the 10-million gallon tanks located at the south tank farm.

(Left) Airman 1st Class Sunny Ogbonda, 65th LRS receiving apprentice, passes cargo down to Staff Sgt. Michael Glover, 65th LRS storage and issue. Airman Ogbonda receives, stores and distributes assets throughout the base, while Sergeant Glover is responsible for storing and issuing individual equipment. (Photos by Airman 1st Class Josie Kemp)



(Above) Staff Sgt. John Souza, 65th LRS material handling equipment journeyman, searches for the proper light to fit a P-23 fire truck, one of many vehicles serviced in the the flight line vehicle maintenance shop.

(Right) Staff Sgt. Gary Becker, 65th LRS fire truck maintenance, replaces a light on the P-23 fire truck.

(Below) Preventive maintenance is one of the duties of the 65th LRS vehicle maintenanceshop.



Pool sharks head to feeding frenzy

By 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley
Deputy Chief, public
affairs

Lajes' Pool Sharks are chalking up their cue sticks for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe 8-ball Tournament at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, March 9 to 11 after dominating the competition here.

Timothy Rabideau and teammate Patrick Abel, 65th Operations Support Squadron, found themselves at the top of Lajes' billiards food chain Feb. 17 after going undefeated in a five-week pool shootout on the Top of the Rock Club Enlisted Lounge's pool table from Jan. 20-Feb. 17.

Their team pocketed six other teams' dreams of advancing to the USAFE-wide tournament after winning 4-0 in the championship match against Christopher Moore's, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron/ 65th Security Forces Squadron, and John Walker's, 65th CES, team the "Dream Killers."

Rabideau and Abel continued to downplay their skills in true Shark fashion after besting all of Lajes' other contenders in four best-of-seven-game matches to claim the Services-funded trip to England.

"I don't think there are any professional pool sharks at Lajes; we're just a bunch of high-quality amateurs," said Rabideau. "There was a lot of good competition; it was close the whole way through."

Abel said, "I'm not real sure what I would credit our unde-

feated record to. Some skill, but probably mostly luck."

The two-person teams competed in 8-ball Scotch Doubles, where each player alternates shots, as opposed to alternating turns, until they sink the 8-ball.

Rabideau and Abel, who arrived on the island in November 2004 on the same plane, from the same base and from the same squadron, knew each other, but had never played pool together.

"I met TJ when we were stationed at Moody (Air Force Base, Ga.) together, but the odd thing is, I never knew he played pool until he asked me to play in the tournament," said Abel.

Abel started playing pool as a senior in high school with some of his golfing buddies, he said.

"We played almost every day and eventually joined a Billiards Congress of America pool league," he said.

Rabideau said asking Abel to pair up with him was not only because they were at Moody together, it was a strategic move. He said he knew Abel played.

"I grabbed a young man who's been playing more than me," he said. "I was a casual player before joining the Air Force 10 to 15 years ago. I used to work at a bowling alley and a recreation center for a year and a half where I'd play six to eight hours a day in-between running the cash register. But since joining the Air Force, I play an average of five times a year."

The tournament was a Project Cheer event to help give Airmen something fun to do



Patrick Abel, 65th Operations Support Squadron, takes a shot during his team's game against the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron team of Christopher Moore and John Walker. Abel and teammate Timothy Rabideau won the the Pool Shark Tournament at the Top of the Rock Club Feb. 17 and get to advance to the USAFE competition at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud)

during the slower winter months.

Participants were:

Team 1: Crystal Eubank and Jovan Thomas

Team 2: Timothy Rabideau and Patrick Abel

Team 3: "Victimizers," Trevor Henry and Mario Richardson

Team 4: Leland Livingston and Chris Powers

Team 5: "Dream Killers," John Walker and Chris Moore

Team 6: "Killer Whales," Mike Silver and Fred Hannan

Team 7: "Ballbreakers," Chris Rodriguez and Patrick Holland

Sports briefs

Hours of operation

Chace Fitness Center

5 a.m.-2 a.m. Mon. - Fri.
8 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat. & Sun.
8 a.m.-2 a.m. down days & holidays

Fitness annex (skating rink)

6-8:30 a.m. & 4-5 p.m.
Mon.-Fri. squadron/unit use only

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. & 5-9 p.m.
Mon.-Fri. general use

8 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat., down days & holidays

Ridge Run

The next run hosted by the Lajes Ridge Runners is 5-6 miles March 5 near Santa Barbara, on flatter trails than usual. Meet at the community activity center at 9 a.m. For more information, call Senior Airman Joe Wilkinson at 2-6878.

HAWC fit tip

Ask for extra vegetables on

Subway sandwiches or a side salad at Burger King and you can be well on your way to five servings a day!

Fun it is

A 5k fun run will be held March 4. Meet in front of the the Chace Fitness Center at 7:30 a.m.

Volleyball's here

Intramural volleyball games for this week:

Monday - Air Base 4 gymnasium

7 p.m.: CES vs. MED GP

8 p.m.: SMAC #1 vs. SMAC #2

9 p.m.: AB4 vs. LRS
Wednesday - High school gymnasium

7 p.m.: COMM vs. SMAC #1

8 p.m.: LRS/TRANS vs. AB4

9 p.m. AMS vs. SMAC #2
Thursday - High school gymnasium

6 p.m.: LRS/TRANS vs. CES

7 p.m.: LRS vs. OSS

8 p.m. SMAC #1 vs. AB4

9 p.m. MED GP vs. AMS

